Total Rural hygiene and Sanitation

2408. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether to attain the targets set for total rural hygiene and sanitation, the Ministry of Rural Development has suggested amendment to Panchayati Raj Act to include a clause to make; only those with toilets in their dwellings, eligible to contest Panchayat polls;

(b) whether the Ministry has written to all Chief Ministers of the States to this effect; and

(c) whether Government has asked the States to prevail upon their employees including Anganwadi workers and also PDS shop-owners to build toilets in their dwellings or face severe consequences of pay/wage cut or cancellation of shop licenses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Minister, Rural Development has requested all Chief Ministers of the States to amend their State Panchayati Raj Acts to make it mandatory to construct household toilets by all the elected members of the Panchayati Raj Institutions, as already done in some States. This suggestion has been made with the intention of increasing rural sanitation coverage, which would lead to improved quality of life in rural areas.

(c) Government of India has requested the State Governments to encourage Government employees, including Anganwadi workers, and PDS shop-owners to construct household toilets. No suggestion has been made to take any penal action against any Government employee or fair price shop dealers in this regard.

Barren land in the country

†2409. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of barren land that is estimated to be found in the country and the State-wise details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government would get the barren land utilized to ensure rural employment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) As per the recent Wastelands Atlas of India-2005 brought out by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad using satellite imagery data, an area of 552.69 lakh ha. in the country is estimated to be wastelands/barren lands. The State-wise details on the extent of these wastelands are given in the statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) With the objective of bringing the wastelands/barren lands into productive use, the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing three special area development programmes, with a micro-watershed as the basic unit of development. These programmes are the integrated wastelands. Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP). Since April 1995 to March 2005, a total area of 226.10 lakh ha. has been taken up for development under these watershed development programmes. These programmes are labour intensive and are estimated to involve labour component to the extent of 60% of the project cost. As on 31.3.2005, an amount of Rs. 4353.40 crore has been released under these programmes, which is estimated to generate over 30 crore mandays of employment.

Statement

State-wise details on the extent of wastelands in the country

(in lakh ha.)

Sl. No.	State	Geographical Area	Area of Wastelands	% to Geographical area
1	Andhra Pradesh	275.07	45.27	16.46
2	Arunachal Pradesh	83.74	18.18	21.70
3	Assam	78.44	14.03	17.89
4	Bihar	94.17	5.44	5.78
5	Chhattisgarh	135.19	7.58	5.26

(in lakh ha.)

Sl. No.	State	Geographical Area	Area of Wastelands	% to Geographical area
6	Goa	3.70	0.53	14.35
7	Gujarat	196.02	20.38	10.40
8	Haryana	44.21	3.27	7.39
9	Himachal Pradesh	55.67	28.34	50.90
10	Jammu and Kashmir	101.39	70.20	69.24
11	Jharkhand	79.71	11.17	14.01
12	Karnataka	191.79	13.54	7.06
13	Kerala	38.86	1.79	4.60
14	Madhya Pradesh	308.25	57.13	18.53
15	Maharashtra	307.69	49.28	16.01
16	Manipur	22.33	13.17	59.01
17	Meghalaya	22.43	3.41	15.21
18	Mizoram	21.08	4.47	21.20
19	Nagaland	16.58	3.71	22.37
20	Orissa	155.71	18.95	12.17
21	Punjab	50.36	1.17	2.33
22	Rajasthan	342.24	101.45	29.64
23	Sikkim	7.10	3.81	53.67
24	Tripura	10.49	1.32	12.62
25	Tamil Nadu	130.06	17.31	13.30
26	Uttaranchal	53.48	16.10	30.10
27	Uttar Pradesh	240.93	16.98	7.05
28	West Bengal	88.75	4.40	4.95
29	Union Territory	10.97	0.31	2.87
	TOTAL:	3166.41	552.69	17.45